

Holy Cross Ranger District  
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United States Department of Agriculture



**HIKING**

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## **Lonesome Lake Trail #2126**

**Length:** 4.9 miles (one way)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Beginning Elevation:** 10,005 ft.

**Elevation Gain:** +1631 ft.-65 ft. = +1566 ft.

**Trail Use:** Low to Moderate

**Open To:** Hiking, Horseback

**Ending Elevation:** 11,571 ft.

**USGS Map(s):** Mt. of the Holy Cross

**Permit Information:** In order to continue to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands, the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. Each party staying overnight in the Holy Cross Wilderness is **required to self-register at the trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

**Access from Vail:** Travel west from Vail on I-70 to Exit 171 for Minturn. Exit here and head south on US 24 for about 13 miles to Homestake Road, FSR 703. Proceed southwest about 10 miles on this improved dirt road, past the Gold Park Campground, and to the small parking area on the right across the road from the trailhead, which is just before a road junction to the Homestake Reservoir dam.

**Trail Highlights:** The trail, newly re-routed, now skirts water diversion pipe. This segment provides the only real climb on the route, which quickly connects to the old footpath. Continue on a gentle grade through woods to the first of two large meadows. Here you can see some old cabins across the meadow to the left. Follow the trail around the west side of this mile-long meadow and then re-enter the woods. You will have to climb a little steeper grade. Soon you will pass a small stream and then come to the second of the meadows. Follow the creek to the other end of the meadow where you will find evidence of past avalanches from the chutes above. The trail then re-enters the woods and begins a steady climb toward the lake. When you reach an open basin, keep to the left side for the last 1/2 mile climb to the grass-covered bench and Lonesome Lake. The trail is faint in spots in this last mountain-walled glacial valley, so note where you traveled for your return.

**Important Information:** Lonesome Lake is within the **Holy Cross Wilderness**. Wilderness is for your use and enjoyment, but you have an obligation to leave it unimpaired for future generations. Please understand your responsibilities when visiting these special places and leave no trace of your visit. A few of the Holy Cross Wilderness regulations include:

- \* Camping - camp at least 100 feet from streams, lakes, and trails.
- \* Dogs - must be under control and must not harass wildlife, people, or damage property.
- \* Fire - campstoves are recommended and fires are prohibited at and above timberline.
- \* Group size - limit group sizes to 15 people.
- \* Sanitation - bury human waste at least 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.

**PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!**

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic map and compass prior to your hiking trip.



